



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/989,776	11/19/2001	Tzu Chiang Yuan	2102112-990000	2053
26379	7590	10/07/2005	EXAMINER	
DLA PIPER RUDNICK GRAY CARY US, LLP 2000 UNIVERSITY AVENUE E. PALO ALTO, CA 94303-2248			LEZAK, ARRIENNE M	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2143	

DATE MAILED: 10/07/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Me

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/989,776

Applicant(s)

YUAN ET AL.

Examiner

Arrienne M. Lezak

Art Unit

2143

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-53 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-53 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 19 November 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 11/18/02
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: ____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

1. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter, which the applicant regards as his invention.

2. Claim 7 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being incomplete for omitting essential structural cooperative relationships of elements, such omission amounting to a gap between the necessary structural connections. See MPEP § 2172.01. The omitted structural cooperative relationships are: The second computer network. Specifically, Examiner notes a first and a third computer network in an Independent claim wherein no mention of a second computer network is made, thus, it would be impossible to have a third computer network where no second computer network exists. Amendment to this claim is required. For purposes of examination, Examiner will assume the third computer network to be a second computer network, (per the limitations of Claim 1).

3. Claim 47 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Specifically, Examiner finds the claim language confusing as to the term "predetermined computer" as it relates to the "second monitor" and requires amendment of the same. For purposes of examination, Examiner will assume said "predetermined computer" to be a "second computer".

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 1-53 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over extensive consideration of US Patent 5,220,657 to Bly.

6. Regarding Claims 1, 7, 11, 12, 17, 28, 36, 37, 46, 47, 49, 50, 51 & 53, Bly discloses a system and apparatus comprising:

- a first and second tailored classified deposit screen and a tailored classified delivery screen, all provided by a server connected to a first computer network, (Figs. 1-15; Col. 8, lines 43-67; Col. 9; Col. 10, lines 1-53; Col. 15, lines 25-67; Col. 16, lines 9-66; Col. 18, lines 25-31; & Claims 1-5), (Examiner notes that Bly does not specifically teach the enumerated deposit and delivery screens; however, in light of Bly does teach a screen with the ability to store and retrieve entries from a remote file server wherein it would have been obvious to have separate screens represent separate functionalities for purposes of task clarification throughout multiple objects over multiple networks);

Art Unit: 2143

- wherein the system implements information deposit, aggregation and delivery processes consisting of the deposit of a first specific file, (Figs. 1 & 3);
- a file process step that uses the first specific (version) file as input to a process to create a second specific (version) file, (Col. 9, lines 44-48 & Col. 16, lines 38-41), (Examiner notes that Bly specifically teaches a shared document system wherein (first version) documents are edited by users with proper access and wherein said edited (second) version documents are obviously stored on the network along with the first version documents for purposes such as back up and restoration in the event of a system failure);
- the delivery/transfer of the first specific (version) file and classification identifier, (per pending Claim 11), prior to processing, (per pending Claim 50), via the first tailored classified deposit screen from a storage device, (per pending Claim 49), on a second computer network storage device to the server, (Fig. 1 & Col. 10, lines 1-27), (Examiner notes that per the teachings of Bly, it would have been obvious to store any version of any document anywhere within the network wherein storage was maintained. Additionally, it would have been obvious to transfer any document between storage mediums, especially a document transfer to a remote network storage device in light of the collaboration functionality of Bly, as a

- remote storage would be the most easily accessible storage on the network for all parties involved in the collaboration);
- the server processes the first specified file (off-line – per pending Claim 28, 36), to create the second specified file, (Fig. 1), (Examiner notes that Bly teaches remote storage on a Unix mini computer wherein it would have been obvious for said computer to perform some function on data stored therein under such circumstances as wherein the software need for a particular process is not located on a user computer and a remote computer is used for implementation of said process in addition to storage of the new data version. Additionally, Examiner notes that both on-line, (storage and database functions), and off-line, (specific calculations and highly confidential), processes would have been obvious to incorporate into the Bly system wherein a collaborative environment obviously requires data and processing from many sources, both public and private);
 - the delivery of the second specific file and classification identifier, (per pending Claim 11), via the second tailored classified deposit screen from a second storage device on a third computer network to the server, (Fig. 1 & Col. 10, lines 1-27), (Examiner notes that per the teachings of Bly, it would have been obvious to store any version of any document anywhere within the network wherein storage was maintained. Additionally, it would have been obvious to transfer any document between storage mediums, especially a document transfer to a remote network storage device in light

Art Unit: 2143

of the collaboration functionality of Bly, as a remote storage would be the most easily accessible storage on the network for all parties involved in the collaboration);

- the delivery of the first and second file via the tailored classified delivery screen from the server to a third storage device on a fourth computer network, (Fig. 1 & Col. 10, lines 1-27), (Examiner notes that per the teachings of Bly, it would have been obvious to store any version of any document anywhere within the network wherein storage was maintained. Additionally, it would have been obvious to transfer any document between storage mediums, especially a document transfer to a remote network storage device in light of the collaboration functionality of Bly, as a remote storage would be the most easily accessible storage on the network, for all parties involved in the collaboration. Examiner further notes that multiple network environments would have been obvious in light of Bly's teaching of remote storage within a networking environment. Moreover, at the time of invention by Applicant, multi-networked environments maintaining numerous and various components were well-known, and further, in light of the Internet, network storage(s) could obviously exist anywhere on the Internet for purposes of collaboration or storage of exceedingly large amounts of data);

Thus, Claims 1, 7, 11, 12, 17, 28, 36, 37, 46, 47, 49, 50, 51 & 53 are found to be unpatentable over considerable consideration of the teachings of Bly.

Art Unit: 2143

7. Regarding Claims 2, 8, 13, 18, 29, 37 & 48, Bly discloses a collaboration system wherein the tailored classified file deposit screen is a web page presented by a web browser and the server is a web server connected to the Internet, an intranet, or an extranet, (Figs. 1-15), (Examiner again notes that in light of the teachings of Kay which include a remote server functionality on a network, the incorporation of the same upon the well-known Internet would have been obvious at the time of invention by Applicant). Thus, Claims 2, 8, 13, 18, 29, 37 & 48 are found to be unpatentable over considerable consideration of the teachings of Bly.

8. Regarding Claims 3, 9, 14, 19, 30 & 38, Bly discloses a collaboration system wherein each step of the process is a node, (computer), in a sequence of nodes, (computers), of a workflow describing the process, (Fig. 1), (Examiner notes that Bly specifically teaches a publication management system within a collaborative environment which clearly and obviously reads upon a sequence of nodes within a workflow process). Thus, Claims 3, 9, 14, 19, 30 & 38 are found to be unpatentable over considerable consideration of the teachings of Bly.

9. Regarding Claims 4, 10, 15, 16, 20, 31 & 39, Bly discloses a collaboration system wherein the workflow is implemented using a workflow system and the file specification and classification are determined based on the node in the workflow represented in the workflow system, (per pending Claims 4, 10, 15, 20, 31 & 39), and wherein a class file separator divides a set of classified files into a first classified file set and a second classified file set based on a classification characteristic of each file, (per pending Claim 16), (Col. 10, lines 1-21 & Col. 16, lines 38-66), (Examiner notes that Bly

Art Unit: 2143

clearly teaches file classification and access rights wherein access rights are obviously classification characteristics by which file sets may be determined for purposes of limiting access rights, for example, by group. Additionally, Bly does enumerate two forms of access rights and a multi-user environment). Thus, Claims 4, 10, 15, 16, 20, 31 & 39 are found to be unpatentable over considerable consideration of the teachings of Bly.

10. Regarding Claims 5, 6 & 52, Bly discloses a collaboration system wherein the screen or server validates the file that was transferred matches the classification, (per pending Claims 5 & 52), and wherein the screen or the server returns a message to the user based on the validation, (per pending Claim 6), (Col. 22, lines 20-30), (Examiner notes that in addition to access control, the lock functionality obviously serves to validate file classification updates). Thus, Claims 5, 6 & 52 are found to be unpatentable over considerable consideration of the teachings of Bly.

11. Regarding Claims 21, 32, 40 & 41, Bly discloses a collaboration system wherein the on-line, (per pending Claim 40), or off-line, (per pending Claim 41), file-processing step is selected from two file-processing processes based on the classification of the specified file, (Fig. 1), (Examiner notes that Bly teaches remote storage on a Unix mini computer wherein it would have been obvious for said computer to perform some function on data stored therein under such circumstances as wherein the software need for a particular process is not located on a user computer and a remote computer is used for implementation of said process in addition to storage of the new data version. Additionally, Examiner notes that both on-line, (i.e.; storage and database functions),

Art Unit: 2143

and off-line, (i.e.; specific calculations and highly confidential data), processes would have been obvious to incorporate into the Bly system wherein a collaborative environment obviously requires data and processing from many sources, both public and private and that often several processes are available to choose from based on file access/classification). Thus, Claims 21, 32, 40 & 41 are found to be unpatentable over considerable consideration of the teachings of Bly.

12. Regarding Claims 22-24, 25-27, 33-35 & 42-45, Bly discloses a collaboration system wherein the file process step has two successor delivery process steps and the access to the specified file is passed to both successor delivery process steps, (per pending Claims 22, 27, 33 & 42), or wherein the file process step has two successor delivery process steps and the access to the second specified file is passed to one successor delivery process step based on the classification/characteristic of the second specified file, (per pending Claims 23, 25, 34, 43 & 44), or wherein the file process step has two successor delivery process steps and the server provides a decision input screen and the access to the second specified file is passed to one successor delivery process step based on the response from the decision input screen, (per pending Claims 24, 26, 35 & 45), (Col. 10, lines 1-21 & Col. 16, lines 38-66), (Examiner notes that Bly clearly teaches file classification and access rights wherein access rights are obviously classification characteristics by which file sets may be determined for purposes of limiting access rights, for example, by individual or group. Moreover, Bly does enumerate two forms of changeable access rights and a multi-user environment. Finally, Examiner notes that the lock functionality clearly and obviously requires

Art Unit: 2143

notification and user interaction wherein the use of user input screens would have been an obvious form of such user interaction in a collaborative environment particularly when one user was changing the data and needed other users to inquire as to when the data change was complete). Thus, Claims 22-24, 25-27, 33-35 & 42-45 are found to be unpatentable over considerable consideration of the teachings of Bly.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure:

US Patent US 6,691,209 B1 to O'Connell.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Arrienne M. Lezak whose telephone number is (571)-272-3916. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:30-4:30.

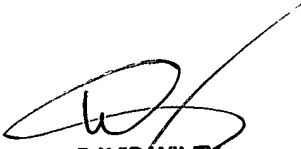
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David A. Wiley can be reached on (571)-272-3923. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 2143

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Arrienne M. Lezak
Examiner
Art Unit 2143

AML



DAVID WILEY
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100